

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 18, 2004 LB 1089

CLERK: Madam President, a priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to bracket LB 1089 until April 15, 2004.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Bourne obviously thought that I'm vulnerable because I was trying to find a way to expedite our work. Everything he said, in general, is correct, about my being upset with certain things that were going to be done or were being contemplated. And within the rules, I oppose those things, and on occasion I prevail. But what Senator Bourne did not think to tell you is that I did everything within the rules. He didn't tell you that there are times that I've facilitated the movement of legislation, that senators have come to me for advice on what they can do under the rules to achieve certain goals, and I have consulted with those senators and given them advice, that I've taken the time, sometimes an entire weekend, to rewrite a very bad bill that I didn't even agree with. But the senator was working so hard and was so sincere that my feeling was if the bill was to be lost, let it be lost in the form that it should be in if it were to become law, and not because it's a hodgepodge and you can't get past that to the real import of the bill. Now I don't know whether Senator Bourne has not been paying attention, but child psychology doesn't even work on children. You know, like I see Senator Friend sitting over there in a thoughtful pose like "The Thinker," and I say, Senator Friend, you'd better keep your hand up there to your chin, then he takes his hand down because he doesn't want me to tell him what he'd better do. That's the way children do. So Senator Bourne must think that by saying, well, if you don't give Senator Chambers his way, he's going to divide the question, and that will stop me from dividing it. No, I'm provoked into doing some things that it was not my intent to do because I have to maintain faith with my colleagues. If I promise you something, you expect me to deliver on the promise. Now, there is a lot of work that I, Senator Landis and Senator Bromm have been doing. I've discussed it with Senator Wehrbein and others who might have an interest in it. And if the body does not want to move in that direction, it makes me no